

Production of better quality coal

2711. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of production of coal, grade-wise, in the country;
- (b) how far the production of improved grade has increased during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to increase production of better quality coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The grade-wise production of coal in Coal India Limited during 1999-2000 is as under:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Coking		Non-coking	
Grade	Quantity	Grade	Quantity
Semi Coking-I/Blendable	2.09	A	34.55
Washery-I	13.58	B	205.34
Washery-II	29.02	C	387.67
Washery-III	86.81	D	326.99
Washery-IV	131.06	E	449.91
Steel-I	2.24	F	928.99
Steel-II	4.62		
Special Low Volatile (SLV)	2.99		
TOTAL	272.41		2333.45

(b) Coking coal and grade A, B and C of non-coking coal are considered superior grades of coal. Production of these grades of coal in CIL has not increased during 8th and 9th Five Year Plan periods. The details are given below:—

(*Figures in million tonnes*)

Plan Period	Year	Total Superior Grade Production
8th Plan	1992-1993	111.20
	1993-1994	108.19
	1994-1995	103.34
	1995-1996	105.84
	1996-1997	105.61
	1997-1998	108.72
9th Plan	1998-1999	97.38
	1999-2000	89.99

(c) Steps taken to increase the production of better quality coal include introduction of modern and intermediate technology, scientific mining of coal, picking of stones/shale pieces during loading of coal to Railway wagons, installation of Coal Handling Plants (CHP) for mechanised loading of proper quality coal, segregation of extraneous material, and installation of washeries for both coking and non-coking coal.

Coal mines in the country

2712. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal mines in operation in the country at present, State-wise and public/private sector-wise;

(b) the number of coal mines closed down during the last three years till date, State-wise; and

(c) if so, details thereof and whether any plan has been formulated by Government to make these mines viable?